GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3492
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
ALLOTMENT OF FOREST LAND ON LEASE TO TRIBALS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh for amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act in order to allot the forest land on lease basis to the tribals which occupied the land prior to 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) Requests have been received recently from the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh for review of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which relate primarily to delegation of limited powers to State Governments to decide small projects and for streamlining the procedures under the said Act to cut short the delay in according forest clearances. However, no specific request has been received for amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in order to allot the forest land on lease basis to the tribals who occupied the land prior to 1980.

(b) & (c) Question does not arise.